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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. JACKSON of Illinois).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 29, 2009.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JESSE L. JACKSON Jr. to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

Reverend Jonathan Falwell, Thomas Road Baptist Church, Lynchburg, Virginia, offered the following prayer:

Our Heavenly Father, we thank You for our great Nation. We thank You for what You have done to make this Nation a lighthouse to the world and a beacon of hope to people everywhere.

We know, as our forefathers knew and as the Scriptures tell us, that righteousness exalts a nation but sin is a reproach to any people. And so, today, we ask Your forgiveness for the sins that we as a people, and we as a Nation, have committed.

Today we seek Your wisdom and Your guidance in all that takes place in this room. We ask You to be a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path. We ask You to protect the men and women who serve here in this place. We ask You to protect the men and women who serve our Nation around the world today and are in harm's way. We ask You to lead them as they lead us.

And above all, we ask You to continue to bless this great land that we call home. And in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SHIMKUS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING THE REVEREND JONATHAN FALWELL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, it is a real honor today to welcome our guest chaplain, the Reverend Jonathan Falwell, the senior pastor of Thomas Road Baptist Church in Lynchburg, Virginia, one of the largest churches in America, which has a tremendous outreach to the community in Lynchburg and across Virginia, across our Nation and, indeed, across the world helping people in need. He also serves as the executive vice president of spiritual affairs at Liberty University, the world's largest evangelical Christian university, with over 40,000 students, both on campus and online.

I very much welcome not only Reverend Falwell, but his entire family who is with us in the gallery today, and we are delighted that they could be with us to share in a full day of activities here at the United States Capitol and to meet as many Members of the

House and staff members and others who work so hard here on behalf of our country.

I hope Members will take the opportunity to come by and say hello to him at the various places he'll be during the course of the day. I'm honored to call Reverend Falwell a constituent and, most importantly, a dear friend; and I offer the thanks of this entire body to him for delivering today's morning prayer. He is joined by his wife, Shari, as well as their four children, Jonathan Jr., Jessica, Natalie and Nicholas, as well as his mother, Macel. Thank you all for being with us.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. VIRGINIA KUCINICH

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Let me tell you a story about a bright, high-spirited woman who, like many American women of the Greatest Generation, sacrificed for her family and her Nation.

Instead of going to college, she helped the war effort, working in manufacturing during the day and singing for the USO at night. She met a young marine combat veteran, fell in love, married, nursed her war-injured husband back to health, and began a family which quickly grew to seven rollicking children. She and her husband never owned a home. As renters, the family was forced to move from place to place. In the first 20 years of their marriage, the family lived in 21 different places, including a couple of cars. Despite economic hardship and

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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her own illnesses, she taught her children to read in preschool years, raised her children to appreciate life, to love God, to count spiritual blessings, to be strong of heart, always to be grateful, to be kind, honest, respect others and never to quit.

Her name was Virginia, and she was my mother. And today would have been her 85th birthday. Happy birthday, Mom.

ALL PAIN AND NO GAIN

(Mr. SHIMKUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, as we spin in circles here on health care, let's not forget the failed policy of a national energy tax, or cap-and-trade. These coal miners lost their jobs the last time we passed environmental laws, and with their jobs went their health care benefits. I've always said that cap-and-tax is a direct attack on coal by the environmental left.

And if you don't believe me, yesterday's article says Sierra Club opposes transmission lines to link AEP to Allegheny coal fire power plants on the grounds that it would increase coal use. I also say that cap-and-tax is all pain and no gain, especially if China and India do not comply.

Well, we also have a quote by Rajendra Pachauri, who is the Chair of the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. And he says: "India will continue to use coal to meet its energy demands." And finally, the science of climate change is not exact and not conclusive. Channel 2, CBS Chicago, says that Chicago sees coldest July in 67 years.

IF IT IS GOOD ENOUGH FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, IT IS GOOD ENOUGH FOR CONGRESS

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as Democrats push for a government takeover of health care, I hope they will abide by a very simple standard: if a government-run health plan is good enough for the American people, it's good enough for Congress.

During consideration of the over 1,000-page bill in the Education and Labor Committee, I successfully got an amendment passed that would provide that Congress Members who vote in favor of government-run health care would enroll in the plan themselves. The American people should monitor that this provision is kept in the bill.

I want to commend Congressman JOHN FLEMING, a physician, for originally promoting this concept of fairness. I urge my Democrat colleagues to adopt this standard if they insist on dragging a Big Government bureaucracy between patients and doctors. The

American people deserve better to protect jobs.

In conclusion, God bless our troops and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

THE RECOVERY ACT IS WORKING

(Mr. SCHRADER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SCHRADER. Mr. Speaker, I came to the floor yesterday to talk about 145 teaching jobs that were saved, thanks to the Recovery Act in one community school district alone. Today I'd like to talk about jobs that have been created and saved for Oregon's first responders.

Mr. Speaker, just yesterday, the first wave of COPS grants was announced. That means 21 more police officers patrolling our streets in Oregon thanks to the Recovery Act. A number of those are in Oregon City, a city I know very closely, which desperately needs the assistance for an understaffed police department. These are 21 first responders that would not have been on the job, again, without this recovery package.

The Oregon Department of Corrections also received \$103 million to save guard positions and prevent prisoners from being released from Oregon's prisons. Oregon is in very tough shape with this economic downturn.

These are just a few examples, with more announcements on the way. Over the next couple of weeks, Byrne grants targeted to help local police communities investigate and prosecute criminals and provide revenue for juvenile justice programs that help steer our troubled youth away from a life of crime. The Recovery Act is working.

ANOTHER MISSED OPPORTUNITY

(Mr. WOLF asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, in Monday's Wall Street Journal, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Secretary of the Treasury Geithner co-authored an opinion piece outlining the issues to be discussed in the U.S.-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue. No mention of human rights. No mention of the Chinese Government's suppression of journalists. No mention of the dozens of human rights lawyers across China who have been stripped of their licenses, no mention of the 35 Catholic bishops that languish in Chinese prisons and slave labor camps, no mention of the Chinese Government's crack-down on the ethnic Uyghurs, no mention of how China continues to repatriate North Korean refugees, no mention of human rights.

Human rights simply cannot be separated from economic policy. The Obama administration has missed yet another opportunity to make human rights a fundamental component of U.S. foreign policy.

GAO MORTGAGE REPORT

(Mrs. MALONEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, the Joint Economic Committee just concluded a hearing highlighting a GAO report that analyzed the performance of subprime loans in all 435 congressional districts, as this map illustrates. This report that I requested provides a sobering snapshot of the ongoing foreclosure crisis inherited by the Obama administration. The dark red is where there are high instances of foreclosure.

So we see that California, Florida, and Nevada are the places where the most nonprime loans were originated with noxious prepayment penalties and exploding interest rates. The end results are obvious. The hearing reviewed past Federal regulatory failures and identified the actions that the administration and Congress have taken to reduce foreclosure rates and prevent a future recurrence. The report is online by congressional district with the hearing Web site at the JEC Web site, www.jec.senate.gov.

SOCIALIZING THE COUNTRY IS NOT THE ANSWER

(Mr. FLEMING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, recently the President said in a speech: "Folks are skeptical and that is entirely legitimate because they haven't seen a lot of laws coming out of Washington that help." That is an understatement. Americans have found themselves at the mercy of the mass social agenda of this administration and the liberal leadership in Congress.

First it was the \$750 billion stimulus bill that neither created nor saved any jobs; then came cap-and-tax. Both of these bills were passed only minutes after being fully released, but not read, and were the first two installments of this liberal/socialist agenda.

But this health care bill, H.R. 3200, is the mother of all bad bills and seeks to recast America as a new socialist state. If it passes in its current form, we can expect tax increases for all American families, waiting lines with DMV-style medicine, an explosion of taxpayer-funded abortions and a lack of good health care for the elderly.

Americans are urging Democrats to finally reach across the aisle and work with Republicans for a change.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. BLUMENAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, if you wonder why health care reform is so hard, look at the rhetoric surrounding efforts to help senior citizens and their families cope with end-of-life decisions. It has morphed into something that has been, I think, rather